

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05789 262128Z
ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5529
INFO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T QUITO 5789

LIMDIS

FOR WHITE HOUSE-PHIL WISE AND WHITE HOUSE ADVANCE OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MASS EC
SUBJ: SUGGESTED POINTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH POVEDA

1. IN ADDITION TO USUAL POINTS THAT MIGHT BE SIGNALLED IN
PREPARING FOR A POSSIBLE CARTER-POVEDA BILATERAL DURING CANAL
TREATY SIGNING (E.G., HUMAN RIGHTS, RETURN TO DEMOCRACY,
GSP VMCLUSION, SOFT LOANS) WE BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST TWO OTHER
TOPICS MIGHT BE USEFULLY TREATED AT THIS MEETING: THE MOST
RECENT REVISIONS IN ECUADOREAN AIR DEFENSE REQUESTS, AND THE
UPCOMING TROPICAL TUNA PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING AT SAN JOSE.

2. POVEDA WILL PROBABLY RAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF ECUADOR'
OBTAINING MUCH MORE MODEST ASSISTANCE FROM US IN THE AIR DEFENSE
SECTOR THAN PREVIOUSLY. HAVING NOW TURNED TO OTHER SOURCES
FOR AIRCRAFT AFTER BEING DISCOURAGED FROM SEEKING THE F-4 AND
DENIED THE ISRAELI KFIR, AND AFTER BEING TOLD THAT THE I-HAWK
SURFACE-AIR MISSILE IS UNAVAILABLE, AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL
LEORO HAS NOW INFORMED US THAT HE IS INTERESTED IN AN ALTER-
NATIVE ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEM, WHICH, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT

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SPECIFY, CAN ONLY MEAN THE LESS SOPHISTICATED VULCAN-CHAPARRAL
(QUITO 5720). WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SHOULD WE
BE FORTHCOMING ON THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEM, LEORO'S LAST
OBJECTION TO RAYTHEON'S BID FOR THE \$120 MILLION AIR TRAFFIC
CONTROL/AIR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM WILL ALSO CRUMBLE. WE HAVE
THUS BEEN GIVEN AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY TO NEUTRALIZE THE
ANTIPATHY WHICH HAS CROPPED UP IN OUR RELATIONSHIP DURING THE

PAST SEVERAL MONTHS OVER THESE ISSUES.

3. IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA, POVEDA MAY ALSO BRING UP THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL IMETP FUNDS FOR PILOT TRAINING WHICH LEORO RAISED WITH MRS. CARTER (QUITO 5592). WE UNDERSTAND THAT POVEDA AND ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL DURAN, WHO ARE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE RECENT RESPONSIVENESS OF THE USG TO THEIR OWN SERVICE REQUESTS, HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO PERSUADE LEORO NOT TO CUT THE AIR FORCE OFF FROM THE US BECAUSE OF HIS RECENT PIQUE OVER SOME OF OUR DECISIONS. IF WE COULD GIVE POVEDA SOME GOOD NEWS ON AIR FORCE TRAINING, IT WOULD PLACATE THE AIR FORCE. POSITIVE NEWS ON TRAINING AND/OR ANTI-AIRCRAFT DURING HIS BILATERAL WOULD ALSO IMPORTANTLY ENHANCE POVEDA'S STATURE AMONG THE MILITARY AS A WHOLE, A CONDITION WHICH SUITS OUR OTHER PURPOSES IN VIEW THAT POVEDA IS THE MOST STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THE RETORNO PROCESS OF THE THREE TRIUMVIRS.

4. THE PRESIDENT MAY ALSO WISH TO PUT IN A PLUG FOR ECUADOREAN ATTENDANCE AND COOPERATION AT THE SAN JOSE CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS A NEW ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE IATTC, SEPT. 19-26. OUR COUNTRY OBJECTIVES INCLUDE THE INVOLVEMENT OF ECUADOR IN A REGIONAL TUNA CONVENTION WHICH WOULD SUBSUME OUR STILL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES ON FISHING RIGHTS. ECUADOR MAY BE WAVERING IN ITS ATTITUDE, TOWARD THIS CONFERENCE AND A BOOST AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AT THIS JUNCTURE COULD BE QUITE BENEFICIAL.

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6. WE HOPE THAT THE GENERAL APPROACH TOWARD THE BILATERAL REFLECTS NOT ONLY THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP SINCE JANUARY 1976 WHEN THE JUNTA TOOK OVER, BUT ALSO THE IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE MINI-CYCLE OF THE LAST 7 MONTHS. THE WARMING TREND WITH ECUADOR WAS SEVERELY CHILLED BY OUR VETO OF THE KFIR IN FEBRUARY. HOWEVER, SINCE THEN, THE GOE HAS RESPONDED QUITE POSITIVELY TO THE VISITS OF MRS. CARTER, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS, AND DEPUTY ASST. SEC. DALLEY, THE KINDNESS SHOWN TO POVEDA DURING HIS STAY AT BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL, AND TO THE SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO NAVY AND ARMY SECURITY REQUESTS. MUCH OF THE ACUTE SOURNESS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN DISSIPATED THEREBY AND THE DEMONSTRATION OF SOME PROGRESS ON OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS COULD BRING US TO A PEAK IN FRINEDLY RELATIONS THAT WE PROBABLY HAVE NOT ENJOYED HERE SINCE 1960. BLOOMFIELD

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